

lobby your local councillors and mp

how many of your local councillors or MP have had a school dinner?

Do they know how much a school dinner costs, who provides the food, and what the dinner ladies get paid? If there's no hot meal service, do they know what kids are getting for lunch? Or what's being done in their council to change things?

How many local councillors and MPs are taking responsibility to make sure the government money for school dinners is being spent effectively? Are they making sure that schools are getting all the help and funding they need?

Why not write to your local councillors and MP and find out.

what can local government do?

Local government should be working for change on behalf of all of us, but especially for our kids. You can put pressure on local government to make school food a priority for spending in your area.

As elected individuals, councillors have to listen when you, their constituents, express concern about an issue. Their involvement is vital because lots of government money is controlled by the local council.

The local council is in charge of the budget for school food. Your councillors need to commit to making sure kids get a proper meal at lunchtime and that there's enough money going towards all important elements: the food on the plate, the wages and training for the dinner ladies that cook the food, the capital budgets required for modernising and rebuilding proper kitchens for the future.

Your MP can help to lobby your local council to get them to improve things.

what can i do?

Contact your local MP and councillors and ask them to support the campaign for better school food. Here's a list of things you can ask them; whether they:

- have tried a meal in a local school yet
- know how much a school meal costs
- know how much their local dinner ladies are getting paid and how many are employed
- are planning to do something about setting up a meal service for schools without kitchens
- know how the new government money is being spent
- know what is being done to help implement the new school meal standards and improve school food

- are training up their local dinner ladies to help them change their meals
- are prepared to support local schools to become junk-free zones
- are helping their local schools with advice, small equipment and ingredients grants to start teaching cooking again
- have a strategic plan to integrate school meals into the long term health programme for children in their area

how

Using your postcode, our friends at www.writetothem.com can tell you who your MP and councillors are, and then allow you to send them a message directly from their website.

No pens, no paper, no stamps, no cold walks to the post box. It's easy. Please do it today!

Note: You can use the list above and my manifesto as a guide, but please don't simply "cut and paste" it into the form – write something in your own words. MPs are always more impressed by unique letters and it will ensure that you're taken more seriously.

Write to them is part of the charity mySociety, founded by a group of volunteers who thought it would be a good thing if it were easier for people to contact their MPs. Thanks for your help guys.



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